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Fifty-third session
Item 72 (s) of the provisional agenda*
General and complete disarmament: establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia

Letter dated 20 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In the capacity of organizer of the Consultative Meeting of Experts of the Central Asian Countries, the Nuclear-Weapon States and the United Nations held in Bishkek on 9 and 10 July 1998, with a view to elaborating acceptable ways and means for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the communiqué adopted by the meeting participants as a final document (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 72 (s) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Zamira B. **Eshmambetova**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz
Republic to the United Nations

* A/53/150.

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Annex

Communiqué of the Consultative Meeting of Experts of the Central Asian Countries, the Nuclear-Weapon States and the United Nations, held in Bishkek on 9 and 10 July 1998

On 9 and 10 July 1998, the Consultative Meeting of Experts of the Central Asian States, and the Nuclear-Weapon States and the United Nations was held in Bishkek with a view to elaborating acceptable ways and means for the practical implementation of the initiative on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. At the meeting, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan submitted a document entitled "Basic elements of the treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia", which reflects the intention of the States of the region to prepare the legal groundwork for the Central Asian initiative. During the discussion, experts from the United Nations, China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America made preliminary comments and recommendations on the document entitled "Basic elements of the treaty on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia".

In an informal discussion, the participants of the Consultative Meeting exchanged opinions on the document that had been submitted and considered further steps to be taken with a view to preparing the document and, on the whole, establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

On the basis of the outcome of the Consultative Meeting, the participants noted the following:

1. The Central Asian States have made some progress in drafting a legal document on a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

2. It is necessary to continue working consultations on the basic elements of the future nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, taking into consideration the proposals and observations made at the Consultative Meeting of Experts.

The Central Asian States acknowledge that consultations between experts from nuclear-weapon States on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia would be very useful.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Item 36 of the provisional agenda*
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 15 July 1998 from the representatives of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the text of a communiqué of the Commission for Partnership of the United States of America and the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania signed by Mr. Strobe Talbott, Deputy Secretary of State of the United States of America, Mr. Toomas Ilves, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia, Dr. Valdis Birkavs, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, and Mr. Algirdas Saudargas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, in Riga on 8 July 1998 (see annex).

We should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 36 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Toomas LUKK
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
Estonia to the United Nations

(Signed) Oskaras JUSYS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Lithuania to the United Nations

(Signed) Jānis PRIEDKALNS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Latvia to the United Nations

(Signed) Bill RICHARDSON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
United States of America
to the United Nations

* A/53/150.

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Annex

Communiqué of the Commission for Partnership of the United States of America and the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, signed in Riga on 8 July 1998

The inaugural session of the United States-Baltic Partnership Commission convened in Riga on July 8, 1998. Latvia's President Guntis Ulmanis opened the session, and Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs as host moderated the discussions. Foreign Minister Toomas Hendrik Ilves of Estonia, Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas of Lithuania and Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott of the United States of America led their countries' delegations. Rapporteurs from economic and security bilateral working groups presented the results of their meetings in recent months. Private sector representatives met in conjunction with the Partnership Commission to recommend promising ares for business initiatives in United States-Baltic economic cooperation.

The Partnership Commission was established under the Charter of Partnership among the Republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania and the United States of America which was signed on 16 January 1998 (see A/53/61, annex). Its purpose is to review annually progress towards meeting Charter goals, and to assess and implement Charter commitments for bilateral cooperation in the political, economic and security areas. Reflecting the Partners' common vision of a Europe whole and free, the goals of the Charter are jointly to create conditions for the full integration of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into European and transatlantic political, economic, security and defence institutions, and to enhance democracy, prosperity, and security in the Baltic Sea region.

In accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charter, the Partners have accomplished the following:

- Committed themselves to promoting Baltic integration into European and transatlantic institutions, to furthering democratic and economic development, to fostering stability and to maintaining and further promoting constructive and good-neighbourly relations within the region;

- Affirmed their determination to expand United States-Baltic economic relations, particularly in the energy, transportation, communication, technology, and environmental areas, through building a public-private sector partnership focused on the region;

- Finalized plans for military cooperation in the year ahead, noting their support for one another's positions on arms control, regional security issues, and the Security Model in Vienna;

- Applauded the important progress that the Baltic States have made towards social integration in line with the principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE);

- Welcomed the continuous and practical work of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania that will progress them towards, and eventually through, the open doors of the Euro-Atlantic community's evolving and expanding

institutions, including the new North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

- Agreed to work together to assure in the near future the accession of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania into the World Trade Organization on appropriate commercial terms;

- Promoted further regional cooperation through such forums as the Council of Baltic Sea States and encouraged United States involvement in the Council's activities, including in the fields of environmental protection, nuclear safety, international trade, and combating organized crime;

- Welcomed the United States Northern European Initiative and agreed to work together, and with the private sector, to identify and implement concrete projects within this framework designed to foster regional energy and transportation strategies, broader trading and investment relationships, greater coordination in the fight against organized crime, and focused efforts for the protection of the environment;

- Agreed to intensify efforts to promote the security, prosperity and stability of the region, including the participation of the Russian Federation in regional cooperation.

The Partners concluded by identifying the key areas for United States-Baltic cooperation in the year ahead. They expressed their determination to coordinate more closely their diplomacy on a range of issues regarding regional cooperation as well as European security. They agreed to deepen economic cooperation in the target areas of energy, transportation, communication and the environment, and to seek ways of engaging the private sector more fully in these important spheres. The Partners stressed the importance of continuous United States military assistance for improving self-defence capabilities and the quality of military life, and for further implementation of the NATO interoperability objectives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. In this context, the Partners agreed to move forward expeditiously in implementing the United States Defence Assessment study. They also committed themselves to achieving continued progress in fully integrating Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania into European and trans-Atlantic institutions, including in supporting the preparations for integration with the European Union, NATO and the World Trade Organization.

Finally, the Partners agreed to convene the next meeting of the United States-Baltic Partnership Commission in Washington, D.C. in 1999.

(Signed) Toomas Hendrik ILVES
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Estonia

(Signed) Valdis BIRKAVS
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Latvia

(Signed) Algirdas SAUDARGAS
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Lithuania

(Signed) Strobe TALBOTT
Deputy Secretary of State
United States of America

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General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
Items 51 and 94 of the provisional agenda*

Elimination of coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion

Macroeconomic policy questions

Letter dated 22 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the communiqué on the removal of unilateral coercive economic measures against sovereign States issued by the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations on 22 July 1998.

I would appreciate if you would have the present letter and the annexed communiqué circulated as a document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly under agenda items 51 and 94.

(*Signed*) **Li** Hyong Chol
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/53/150

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Annex

Communiqué of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations, issued

Unilateral coercive economic measures and related laws against sovereign States must be removed unconditionally

At present, when the twentieth century is coming to an end, the removal of unilateral coercive economic measures and related laws constitutes one of the major areas of concern of the international community in doing away with the confrontational and oppressive modes of thinking of the cold-war era in international relations forever and ushering in a prosperous new millennium.

Although the cold war is over, coercive economic measures and related laws remain intact, thus infringing upon the sovereign rights of the developing countries and seriously hindering their economic development.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations hereby issues the following communiqué highlighting the position of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea concerning unilateral coercive economic measures.

1. Unilateral coercive economic measures are in complete contravention of the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, relevant international laws and declarations and programmes of action adopted in the General Assembly and United Nations conferences.

Chapter I, Article 1 of the Charter provides that the main purpose of the United Nations is, *inter alia*, to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and achieve international cooperation in solving problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character.

Article 32 of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, contained in resolution 3281 (XXIX) adopted at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, also states that "No State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights".

In particular, reflecting the just demand of the developing countries, the idea of putting an end to unilateral coercive economic measures has begun to be on the agenda of the General Assembly since 1989; in the fifty-second session of the General Assembly in 1997, resolution 52/181 on "Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries" was adopted with the support of an absolute majority of 185 Member States, with only one Member State opposing.

The resolution called on the international community to take effective measures immediately so as to remove unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries as these measures are in violation of the Charter.

In addition, the declarations and programmes of action and relevant documents, adopted at such international forums as the World Conference on Human Rights, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in recent years, condemned unilateral coercive economic measures as acts of economic discrimination and gross human rights violations and called for their removal, with a view to promoting world peace and security and in conformity with the current trend towards reconciliation and cooperation.

Unfortunately, however, certain countries that drafted and ratified the Charter at the initial stage of the inception of the United Nations, adopted a series of sanction measures, including unilateral coercive economic measures, as a means of political and economic coercion against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and other developing countries, newly emerging nations in particular. Such measures still serve as a means of pursuit of political objectives, instead of being declared null and void with the end of the cold war. This is a well-known fact that cannot in any way be justified.

Therefore, the removal of unilateral coercive economic measures is a unanimous demand of an international community aspiring to peace and prosperity for humankind as well as an important and urgent matter that should be realized without fail, in keeping with the overall principles of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.

2. Unilateral coercive economic measures and related laws must be removed unconditionally.

The international community strongly opposes the use of unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion, and those countries that still resort to such anachronistic measures in disregard of the requirements of the present era are subject to criticism accordingly.

In recent years, there have been some positive efforts on the part of member States of the European Union to develop economic ties with developing countries, including Asian countries.

It is noteworthy that the United States is also talking about reviewing its unilateral coercive economic measures, paying attention to the demands of the international community.

In actual fact, it is none other than the United States that has still been maintaining various coercive economic measures and related laws against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In particular, the United States has been continuously imposing comprehensive economic sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, based on more than a dozen laws, such as "the Trading With the Enemy Act" and "Foreign Assets Control Regulation" legislated on 28 July and 17 December 1950 respectively.

The fact that the United States has been maintaining economic sanction measures and related laws against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for about five decades shows that it has no intention of giving up its policy of isolating and stifling the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Even though four years have elapsed since the conclusion of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-United States of America Agreed Framework, the United States has yet to implement the provision of the Agreed Framework concerning the relaxation of barriers to trade and investment. Instead, it continues to resort to a hostile policy by committing itself only to conditional lifting of sanctions.

The United States must discard unilateral economic measures as a means of political coercion, which is a mode of thinking of the cold-war era, and remove all economic sanction measures and related laws against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea immediately and unconditionally in line with its obligations under the Agreed Framework.

The Member States of the United Nations are called upon to pay further attention to ensuring that the General Assembly resolution on the removal of unilateral coercive

economic measures is duly implemented in accordance with the purpose of the Charter of the United Nations.

In doing so, they will have to take all appropriate measures aimed at preventing the recurrence of the twentieth century's use of unilateral economic measures as political coercion in the new century, thereby contributing to the promotion of world peace and development.